

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-14 as presented in the underlying International Application No. PCT/EP02/10782.

Please add new claims 15-30 as indicated in the listing of claims below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (new): A cassette filter for filtering a medium, comprising:

a frame;

a pleated filter material disposed in the frame and having a first flow resistance; and

a protective grid having passage holes disposed in the frame at a distance from the filter material and having a second flow resistance lower than the first flow resistance, the protective grid including:

a first film strip extending parallel to a flow direction of the medium and bent around the passage holes and including a plurality of contact points; and

a second film strip bent identically as the first film strip and recurrently contacting the first film strip at the plurality of contact points and being glued to the first film strip outside of the passage holes.

Claim 16 (new): The cassette filter as recited in claim 15, wherein the first and second film strips form a film ring having a shape, wherein the shape includes at least one of a triangle, a quadrangle, a hexagon, and a circle.

Claim 17 (new): The cassette filter as recited in claim 15, wherein the first and second film strip includes at least one of reciprocating corrugations and reciprocating bends.

Claim 18 (new): The cassette filter as recited in claim 15, wherein at least one of the first and second film strips have a maximum thickness of 0.5 mm.

Claim 19 (new): The cassette filter as recited in claim 15, wherein the protective grid has an open area amounting to more than 75% of a flow area of the protective grid.

Claim 20 (new): The cassette filter as recited in claim 15, wherein the passage holes have a diameter of less than or equal to 15 mm.

Claim 21 (new): The cassette filter as recited in claim 20, wherein the diameter is from 2 mm to 15 mm.

Claim 22 (new): The cassette filter as recited in claim 15, wherein the protective grid has a core height in the flow direction of 1 mm to 10 mm.

Claim 23 (new): The cassette filter as recited in claim 15, wherein each of the first and second film strips include a supporting layer and an adhesive layer bordering the supporting layer, wherein the supporting layer has a higher melting point than the adhesive layer, wherein the adhesive layer is thermally softenable at least once at a lower temperature than the supporting layer, and wherein the first and second film strips are glued together using the adhesive layer.

Claim 24 (new): The cassette filter as recited in claim 23, wherein the supporting layer includes at least one of metal, plastic, and paper.

Claim 25 (new): The cassette filter as recited in claim 15, wherein the pleated filter material includes a plurality of partings and further comprising spacer strips supporting the protective grid and glued to the partings.

Claim 26 (new): The cassette filter as recited in claim 25, wherein the spacer strips include one of foamed plastic and unfoamed plastic.

Claim 27 (new): The cassette filter as recited in claim 15, wherein the filter material includes one of paper and a nonwoven material.

Claim 28 (new): The cassette filter as recited in claim 15, wherein the filter material includes a

nonwoven material containing a binder and one of glass fibers, synthetic fibers and synthetic threads.

Claim 29 (new): The cassette filter as recited in claim 15, wherein the protective grid is configured to straighten a flow of the medium.

Claim 30 (new): The cassette filter as recited in claim 15, wherein the protective grid is configured as a sound absorber for the medium.